

by providing legal counsel insofar as investigations relating to his CBS News activities are concerned.

"We will fully support Mr. Schorr against attempts to require him to reveal the source through which he obtained the report. These aspects of the matter involve fundamental issues of press freedom.

"In respect of his subsequent actions in arranging for publication of the report, Mr. Schorr acted as an individual and, he states, as a matter of individual conscience.

"In order, however, not to prejudice the important principles involved in the acquisition, and reporting on the report, we shall postpone further CBS News action relating to Mr. Schorr until all government proceedings have been resolved."

The following statement was issued by Schorr:

"Experience has quickly taught that it is not possible to work as a reporter while personally involved in a controversy over reporters' rights, and I accept that reality.

"I do not seek the legal contests which may lie ahead, but I am confident that, as they unfold, it will become clear that what is involved beyond specific details of my action is the public's continued right to know in the face of a secrecy backlash.

"CBS News is supporting me with legal counsel on the fundamental Freedom of Press issues relating to CBS News activities. With its concurrence, I have retained Joseph A. Califano, Jr."

An issue in the case is why the Village Voice was given the report. Did Schorr make an effort to distribute the report elsewhere and why didn't he have CBS broadcast the report, or was he rejected? According to sources at CBS, the network is satisfied that Schorr broadcast as much of the report as it wanted. The January 26 issue of the New York Times reported the main details of the report and in its January 20 issue published portions of the draft.

#### 'No choice'

Jack C. Landau defends himself and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press against charges of leaks and checkbook journalism with the comment "we had no choice" and the statement that neither he nor other Committee trustees are personally benefitting financially.

Landau, Newhouse Newspapers' Supreme Court correspondent, said the Committee "had no choice but to give the

## CBS suspends Schorr Reporters group declines payment for Pike Report

Any gift that may be offered to The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press in connection with the publication of the Pike Report in the recent issue of the *Village Voice* will be declined.

The committee issued a six-part statement February 24 defining its relationship to the episode in which CBS News correspondent Daniel Schorr made available a House Intelligence Committee report to the Voice, a New York weekly.

The executive committee, which worked long hours on the statement, is composed of Lyle Denniston, *Washington Star* reporter; Fred P. Graham, CBS-TV reporter; Jack C. Landau, Newhouse Washington, D.C., bureau reporter; Robert C. Maynard, *Washington Post*; Jack Nelson, *Los Angeles Times* Washington reporter, and Eileen Shanahan, *New York Times* reporter.

This is the statement:

"1. Daniel Schorr approached the Reporters Committee with the proposal that he donate the proceeds, if any, that he might receive from placement of the Pike Report with the publisher. He did not ask for any commitment from the committee in return, nor was any offered. In other words, there was not quid pro.

"2. The Reporters Committee agreed that it would accept the proceeds, if any, because there appeared to be no likelihood that any national interest would be injured. In view of the fact that the New York Times and CBS-News already had access to the Pike Report and had quoted extensively from it, publication of the report by a commercial publisher appeared to us to be similar to such undertakings as the publishing of the Pentagon Papers in book form by the New York Times and Washington Post.

"3. The Reporters Committee also agreed it would accept the proceeds, if any, because the offer met the two conditions that the committee has always attached to any proposed gift: that no obligation to the donor be incurred and that his or her identity and the amount of the gift be disclosed.

"4. At no time before or after publication of the Pike Report in the *Village Voice* has any member of the Reporters

Committee had any contact with Clay Felker (Voice publisher); nor has any money been offered by him or received. The final arrangements for publication were made without the approval or knowledge of any member of the Reporters Committee.

"5. At no time did any member of the committee have possession of the Pike Committee report or access to it, and no one on the Reporters Committee has ever known the identity of Mr. Schorr's source for the document.

"6. Although no conditions ever were or are now attached to the limited aid we gave Mr. Schorr—which consisted of putting him in touch with the lawyer so he could make his own arrangements—the committee wishes to avoid the appearance of a quid pro quo. Therefore the committee has decided that it will decline any gift that may be offered in connection with the publication of the Pike Report."

A Reporters Committee staffer, Libbie Keefer, law clerk, told *E&P* that no one on the committee, a Washington-based legal defense fund for reporters, has ever known the amount of what the sale of the Pike Report was to have been. The nation's news media had reported in the past week that the committee was the beneficiary of the "substantial" sale.

If the gift would have been given to the committee, the group would have been compelled to disclose the amount because of its non-profit, tax-exempt status.

#### Schorr suspended

Daniel Schorr, CBS News correspondent, has been "relieved all reporting duties for an indefinite period" pending government investigations into his leak of a House committee's intelligence report to the *Village Voice*.

Following is a statement issued February 23 by Richard S. Salant, president, CBS News, with regard to Schorr's suspension:

"In view of the adversary situation in which Dan Schorr is placed in pending government investigations, he has agreed with CBS News that he will be relieved of all reporting duties for an indefinite period.

"CBS News will support Mr. Schorr